MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want to be more democratic! ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, you can take away my Personal right without going to the House!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 349. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सर, मंत्री जी जवाब देने के लिए खड़े हो गए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Sir, there is a contradiction between the answer given by the Union Minister for Agriculture yesterday and the answer given for question 348 here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can write to them. You will get the correct answer.

Medicines available without prescriptions

*349. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fast action potent sedative drugs like Ketamine and Rohypnol are available in the market without prescriptions and there are reports of their rampant misuse; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to restrict the sale of such drugs in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) :(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Ketamine Hydrocholoride is a Schedule H drug under the drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, and therefore can be sold only against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners. Ketamine is a drug used for the induction of dissociative anesthesia.

In view of the alleged misuse of this drug reported by the press and a reference received in this regard from Narcotic Control Bureau, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requested State Drugs Controllers to report whether this drug is being misused in their respective States. Except Goa, no other State reported the misuse of Ketamine in their respective States. After due consideration, this Ministry has intimated its consent to the Narcotic Control Bureau regarding their proposal of bringing the Ketamine under the control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

(NDPS) Act so as to restrict its alleged misuse.

As far as the drug Rohypnol is concerned, no specific information is available regarding misuse of this drug.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, I thank the Minister for the reply which has been given by her. There are two drugs, Ketamine Hydrochloride and Rohypnol. There has been rampant misuse reported in the major cities of the country because these drugs are used for the induction of dissociative anaesthesia. These drugs have been sued in crimes. We do appreciate that the Minsitry has taken note of their misuse, and has given its consent now to put Ketamine Hydrochloride under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances act. But Rohypnol is still available in the market. Would the Minister consider directing the Drug Controller of India to ensure a strict vigilant check so that the account of both the quantity of drug which is produced under license and what is sold in the market is kept and if there is any misuse reported or if there is its sale without prescription, strict action should be taken?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, this drug, Rohypnol, is not marketed in our country. Health is a State subject and we are giving instructions to the State Drug Controllers to do vigilance and take necessary action.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Negative growth in crucial crops

*341. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports from across the country suggest a negative growth in output of crucial crops such as paddy, coarse grains, pulses and oilseeds;

(b) whether Government have received full report of erratic rainfall in the country and its effect on these coarse grains;

(c) whether the rains in September have also improved the position;